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Barbara Fisher

Barbara Fisher

Date: 26 March 2002

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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re PCT International Application of:)

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VAN DEN BORN, Isaac, Cornelis, et al.)

20 Int. Appl No.: PCT/EP00/09254)

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Int. Filing Date: 20 September 2000)

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PROCESS TO REMOVE SOLID SLAG)

25 PARTICLES FROM A MIXTURE OF SOLID)
SLAG PARTICLES AND WATER)

26 March 2002

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

30 Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.115

Applicant request entry of the following amendments prior to consideration of the
35 claims pending in the application.

IN THE ABSTRACT: Add the following abstract:

Process to remove solid slag particles from a mixture of solid slag particles and
40 water present in a quench zone, which quench zone is part of a process for the
preparation of synthesis gas by partial combustion of finely dispersed solid carbon-
containing fuel with an oxygen-containing gas, by a) discharging of the mixture from the
quench zone to a first vessel, (b) discharging slag particles from the first vessel to a
second vessel and discharging water poor in solid slag from the second vessel, which
45 second vessel is located below and fluidly connected to said first vessel by means of an